



State of Vermont

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
Department of Environmental Conservation
State Geologist
Natural Resources Conservation Council

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Department of Environmental Conservation

Hazardous Materials Management Division
103 South Main Street/West Building
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0404
(802) 241-3888
FAX: (802) 244-5141

August 17, 1993

Charlie Brown
Fairbanks Museum
81 Main Street
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

RE: Petroleum contamination at Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury
(Site #93-1434)

Dear Charlie Brown:

The Sites Management Section (SMS) has received a report outlining the subsurface assessment for the above referenced site, conducted by Don Tourangeau of Griffin International Inc. on July 26, 1993. This report, dated July 27, summarizes the degree and extent of contamination encountered during the assessment. The tank excavated was a 3,000 gallon, # 2 heating oil, underground storage tank (UST). It was reported to be in fair condition. It had been in service since about 1973, but its existence was never notified to the UST program.

During the tank pull, soils screened at the north end of the tank pit by the fill pipes had peak concentrations of 105 ppm as measured by a photoionization detector (PID). No PID readings were found exceeding 3 ppm from the bottom of the tank pit to the water table, which was encountered at 10 feet subsurface. No sheens or free product was observed at the water table. In order to remove all petroleum contaminated soils (PCS) with PID readings over 10 ppm, a total of 21 cubic yards of PCS were excavated and stockpiled on plastic at a location 400 feet east of the site but still remaining on Fairbanks Museum property.

Based on the above information, the SMS has determined that some limited work is necessary at the site in order to determine the severity of contamination present. Therefore, the SMS is requesting that Fairbanks Museum retain the services of a qualified environmental consultant to perform the following:

1. Develop a plan to treat and/or monitor the 1.5 cubic yards of stockpiled soils. The soils must remain in an area such that they have a low potential to impact nearby receptors. They must also remain properly encapsulated in plastic and be periodically monitored until the contaminants reach non detect levels. If the soils are moved offsite, the SMS or UST

TDD: 1-800-253-0191

Regional Offices - Barre/Essex Jct./Pittsford/N. Springfield/St. Johnsbury


Program must grant permission prior to their transport.

2. The basement of Fairbanks Museum needs to be screened for any petroleum vapors by PID.
3. Submit to the SMS a report which outlines the work performed to treat and dispose of the soils, as well as the results of the basement screening when this work has been completed.

Please have your consultant submit a preliminary work plan for monitoring the stockpiled soils and cost estimate within fifteen days of your receipt of this letter so that it may be approved prior to the initiation of onsite work. Enclosed please find a list of consultants who perform this type of work in the area as well as the brochure "Selecting Your UST Cleanup Contractor", which will help you in choosing an environmental consultant.

This work is covered under the State's Petroleum Cleanup Fund (PCF) assuming proof can be provided that no private insurance existed at this site during its operation which would cover environmental pollution. There also remains the issue of the potential violation existing at this site. A penalty may be assessed or cost recovery sought if this violation is confirmed. If this does not occur and Fairbanks Museum has no pollution liability insurance, then costs for all pre-approved work will be reimbursed to you from PCF, once the required \$10,000 deductible is spent by Fairbanks Museum. Please review the enclosed Reimbursement Package for the Petroleum Cleanup Fund, which outlines the expenditures covered under the PCF. If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,


Chuck Schwer, Supervisor
Sites Management Section

cc: St. Johnsburry Selectboard
DEC Regional Office
Enclosures